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NEWSMAKERS

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Espionage trial begins for German

Accused spy Ernst Ludwig Forbrich sat in a Tampa, Fla., federal courtroom Monday listening to a German-speaking interpreter as testimony in his espionage trial began.

Forbrich, 43, a West German auto mechanic, allegedly tried to buy a secret defense document in Florida on March 19 from an undercover FBI agent posing as a military officer.

The government says Forbrich admitted spying for East Germany for at least 15 years, using contacts he made with U.S. servicemen stationed at a base near the garage he operated in Goeppingen, West Germany.

Forbrich's wife and children live in East Germany.